

§ 929.32

fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;

(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;

(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;

(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such times as the Secretary may request;

(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to cranberries;

(i) To submit to the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;

(j) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request; and

(k) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part.

§ 929.32 Procedure.

(a) Ten members of the committee, or alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum. All actions of the committee shall require at least ten concurring votes: Provided, if the public member or the public alternate member acting in the place and stead of the public member, is present at a meeting, then eleven members shall constitute a quorum. Any action of the committee on which the public member votes shall require eleven concurring votes. If the public member abstains from voting on any particular matter, ten concurring votes shall be required for an action of the committee.

(b) The committee may vote by mail, telephone, fax, telegraph, or other electronic means; Provided that any votes cast by telephone shall be confirmed promptly in writing. Voting by proxy, mail, telephone, fax, telegraph, or

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other electronic means shall not be permitted at any assembled meeting of the committee.

(c) All assembled meetings of the committee shall be open to growers and handlers. The committee shall publish notice of all meetings in such manner as it deems appropriate.

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§ 929.33 Expenses and compensation.

The members of the committee, and alternates when acting as members, shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses, as approved by the committee, incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part. The committee at its discretion may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses, as aforesaid.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

§ 929.40 Expenses.

The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions hereof. The funds to cover such expenses shall be paid to the committee by handlers in the manner prescribed in § 929.41.

§ 929.41 Assessments.

(a) As a handler's pro rate share of the expenses which the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the committee during a fiscal period, a handler shall pay to the committee assessments on all cranberries acquired as the first handler thereof during such period, except as provided in § 929.55: *Provided*, That no handler shall pay assessments on excess cranberries as provided in § 929.57. The payment of assessments for the maintenance and functioning of the committee may be required under this part throughout the period it is in effect, irrespective of whether particular provisions thereof are suspended or become inoperative.